

PRESS RELEASE

NORMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Halloween Safety Tips

Trick or Treat will be observed in Norman on Monday, October 31. The Norman Police Department has the following recommendations to help make it a safe and enjoyable time for all concerned:

Motorists should be especially watchful for Trick or Treaters

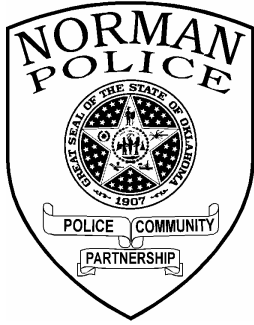
- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Be aware that children walking next to, or on the edge of the roadway may suddenly step, fall, or be pushed by a companion into the street. Give them a wide berth if possible, and be ready to take evasive action.
- Be especially watchful for pedestrians on the sidewalks when entering and leaving driveways and parking lots.
- Be aware that, despite advice to the contrary, some children will go out in dark colored costumes. Keep in mind that some may be hard to see after dark.

Treats: Warn children not to eat any treats before an adult has carefully examined them for evidence of tampering.

Flame Resistant Costumes: When purchasing a costume look for the label Flame Resistant. To minimize the risk of contact with candles or other sources of ignition, avoid costumes made with flimsy materials and outfits with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts.

Costume Designs: Purchase or make costumes that are light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists.

- For greater visibility during dusk and darkness, decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape that will glow in the beam of a car's headlights. Bags or sacks should also be light colored or decorated with reflective tape. Reflective tape is usually available in hardware, bicycle, and sporting goods stores.
- To easily see and be seen, children should also carry flashlights.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling.
- Children should wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes. Mother's high heels are not a good idea for safe walking.
- Tie hats and scarfs securely to prevent them from slipping over children's eyes.



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- Apply a natural mask of cosmetics rather than have a child wear a loose-fitting mask that might restrict breathing or obscure vision. If a mask is used, make sure it fits securely and has eyeholes large enough to allow full vision.
- Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be of soft and flexible material.

Pedestrian Safety: An adult or responsible child should always accompany young children. All children should WALK, not run from house to house and use the sidewalk if available, rather than walk in the street. Caution children against running out from between parked cars, or across lawns and yards where ornaments, furniture, or other obstacles may present dangers.

Choosing Safe Houses: Children should go only to homes where the residents are known and have outside lights on as a sign of welcome. Children should not enter homes or apartments unless an adult accompanies them.